

May 17th, 1949.

R. P. G. Laurence, Esq.,
Indian Superintendent,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Reference is made to your vouchers number 439 dated April 6th and number 442 dated April 7th, 1949, requesting payment of the funded Annuities due Harvey and Ravier Owl.

We would like to have your comments in regard to whether or not a tightening-up in the matter of releasing savings would be advisable. The idea of funding interest and annuity shares for children in school, as you are aware, is to have on hand as much money as can be obtained by that means to turn over to a young Indian who has decided to engage in farming or livestock raising or perhaps merely to assist him in purchasing furniture, etc., on marriage. The same holds true for Indians girls. We would be quite justified in all cases in retaining this money until the boy or girl had attained the age of 21 years or married (see Section 9, Sub-Section 6 of the Indian Act).

You will agree that no good purpose is served by retaining the money and releasing it immediately the children are finally discharged from school at the age of 14, 15 or 16 years when their appreciation of the value of money is undeveloped, even for an Indian.

Our records indicate that the above referred to children are 17 and 16 years of age respectively. Until this report is received those vouchers are not being submitted for payment.

[Signature]
A. G. Leslie,
Trusts & Annuities Division.

[Handwritten initials]
JS/PT.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6900, file 493/28-3 pt. 6)

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